

School remembers late doctor with award

Colleagues name scholarship in honor of longtime Harvard physician

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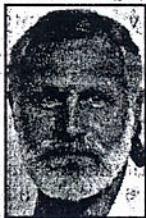
HARVARD — Colleagues of the late Dr. Gary Button will twice honor his contributions to family medicine next month.

Button, 52, worked as a primary-care physician throughout his 21-year career in Harvard. He died July 24 from complications of back surgery at St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford will recognize Button with awards at a graduation ceremony and a senior dinner.

"It means someone else knew the quality of the man, too," said Button's wife, Sharon. "It affirms his life."

The Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented at the April 24 graduation, and the first winner of the Dr. Gary Button Rural Primary Care Award will be announced at the April 23 senior dinner, said Dr. Michael Glasser, head of the college's National Center for Rural



Dr. Gary Button
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Health Professions program.

The Rural Care Award comes with a \$200 check and a plaque.

Friends and relatives set up an account to continue giving the award to an outstanding medical student each year.

Glasser said Button was a lifelong friend who delivered his three sons. Susan Glasser gave birth to her first son while Button was a resident in 1979.

"My wife liked Gary so much that she drove [from Rockford] to Harvard for prenatal care," Glasser said.

Born in Woodstock, Button set up a family practice in Harvard after com-

pleting a residency in 1982. He graduated from the medical school in 1979 and was a resident at the Office of Family Practice in Rockford from 1979 to 1982.

Button enjoyed teaching and helping medical students sharpen their skills, Glasser said.

He was a former assistant director of the university's Rural Medical Education Program, and he mentored students enrolled in the Rural Medical Program.

"Gary had a lot of commitment to family medicine, and he was well-respected by his patients," Glasser said.